

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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April 13, 1999 LB 610, 652

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, LB 652 is introduced by Senators Thompson and Lynch. (Title read.) The bill was read for the first time on January 19, referred to Judiciary Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM0717, Legislative Journal page 1045.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Thompson, to open on your bill.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. LB 652 is actually a combination of three bills and the page is passing out a yellow sheet of paper which will outline these three bills for you. As you may recall, last year this Legislature created a Juvenile Services system task force to look at the issues facing our juvenile justice system, in part prompted by a bill last year, LB 512, which was addressing some issues that some counties were facing in terms of costs of juvenile services. The task force's mission was broader than that, and these bills are a reflection of some of the recommendations from that task force. The task force looked at the system broadly, but this bill only addresses a segment of the system. It will address what I call the deep end of the pool. These are the children who are chronic, serious offenders who need treatment, who need specialized service, who needs services, who need secure confinement. These youth are currently in an overcrowded system. It needs many, many things. We need things at the local level, and I'll come back next year with some things in regard to community-based services. The services that this bill address are those that are for children and out-of-home placements with the Office of Juvenile Services. The way the discussion on this bill I hope will go is that the original bill is LB 652. That is a bill that will address the needs of the secure youth confinement facilities by creating a master plan to look at the facilities themselves, the programs and staffing needs. The amendment, which is the committee amendment, is two other bills. One bill was introduced by Senator Dwite Pedersen and that is to return oversight of the secure youth confinement facility that opened last summer in Omaha back to the juvenile justice system and the Department of Health and Human Services. And the second part of that amendment is...was originally LB 610 which is a compromise that